

protect a uniform national system of food and drug law. All of it occurred before Mr. Troy assumed his current position. In none of these cases did any court request FDA's opinion. Thus, there is ample precedent for the actions that Mr. Troy has recently been undertaking. His action is not radical or even novel.

The amicus curiae briefs filed by the Department of Justice at the request of Mr. Troy protect FDA's jurisdiction and the integrity of the federal regulatory process. There is a greater need for FDA intervention today because plaintiffs in courts are intruding more heavily on FDA's primary jurisdiction than ever before. In our judgment, Mr. Troy's actions are in the best interests of the consuming public and FDA. If every state judge and jury could fashion their own labeling requirements for drugs and medical devices, there would be regulatory chaos for these two industries that are so vital to the public health, and FDA's ability to advance the public health by allocating scarce space in product labeling to the most important information would be seriously eroded. By assuring FDA's primary jurisdiction over these matters, Mr. Troy is establishing a sound policy of national decisions that promote the public health and, thus, the public interest.

We therefore recommend that the \$500,000 cut from the appropriations for the FDA Office of Chief Counsel be restored.

Sincerely yours,

PETER BARTON HUTT (1972–1975).

RICHARD A. MERRILL (1975–1977).

RICHARD M. COOPER (1977–1979).

NANCY L. BUC (1980–1981).

THOMAS SCARLETT (1981–1989).

THE ISSUE OF BONUS DEPRECIATION

HON. JERRY WELLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, thank you for the opportunity to address an important issue. Over the past 2–3 years, the issue of bonus depreciation has been very important to American companies and American workers as our economy recovers from the recent recession.

On March 9, 2002, President Bush signed the Job Creation and Worker Assistance Act of 2002 into law. This law allows businesses to accelerate the depreciation of equipment they purchase between September 11, 2001 and December 31, 2004. They get to accelerate 30 percent more in the first year. Before this law, a \$1,000 computer would be depreciated equally over 5 years. \$200 each year. With this change, businesses get \$200 in the first year, plus a 30 percent bonus. So, they depreciate \$500 in the first year and the remaining \$500 over the next four years (\$125 each year for four years). In 2003, President Bush signed legislation to increase the 30 percent bonus depreciation to 50 percent. There is evidence that bonus depreciation is helping to drive the U.S. economic recovery.

Fifty percent bonus depreciation will expire on December 31, 2004. I personally will continue working to try to extend this important provision. For some industries, such small aircraft manufacturers, this provision will expire

much sooner than December 2004. Because of the relatively long period of time it takes to build these airplanes, many manufacturers cannot promise delivery by the end of this year. Because of this, new orders are drying up.

Why is this important? Well, building new airplanes requires workers. Increased orders requires increased workers. In May 2004, Cessna announced they would be hiring back 400 workers to meet increased demand.

Both the House and Senate versions of the JOBS bill includes a provision extending the period for placing in service certain non-commercial business aircraft. Under the provision, if such an aircraft is ordered in 2004 and certain additional requirements are met, then a taxpayer would have until the end of 2005 to place the aircraft in service.

I believe it is important that Congress enact this provision, either in the JOBS bill or through another vehicle, as soon as possible. I look forward to working with my colleagues to help make this happen.

STATE CHILDREN'S HEALTH INSURANCE PROGRAM

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be introducing this legislation with Chairman BARTON that will protect more than \$1 billion in State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) funding. This funding is scheduled to revert to the Treasury on September 30 if Congress does not act.

The SCHIP program was established in 1997 to reduce the number of uninsured children. Since its inception, the program has been a great success. Last year, 5.8 million children were enrolled.

As a result of this success, however, a number of States are projected to have insufficient federal funding to sustain their existing programs over the next several years. Unless Congress acts, more than 200,000 children could lose their health insurance coverage as a result.

The solution Chairman BARTON and I are proposing has the support of the National Governors Association, along with a number of advocacy groups representing the concerns of children.

I look forward to working together to enact this legislation when we return in September.

ICE AGE FLOODS NATIONAL GEOLOGICAL TRAIL

HON. DOC HASTINGS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to create the Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail.

At the end of the Ice Age, 12,000–17,000 years ago, a series of cataclysmic floods occurred in what is now the northwest region of the United States. These floods left dramatic and distinguishing features on the landscape

throughout Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Oregon.

In 2001, a joint study team headed by the National Park Service, that included 70 members from public and private entities, completed a study endorsing the establishment of the Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail to recognize the national significance of this phenomenon and to coordinate public and private sector entities in the presentation of the story of the Ice Age Floods.

The Ice Age Floods National Geological Trail would reveal, to the public, a fascinating story that spans across the Pacific Northwest. Regional, national, and international travelers would have the opportunity to discover how immensely powerful cataclysmic floods had a profound effect in shaping distinctive landscapes and in defining ways of life, from the flanks of the Rocky Mountains to the Pacific Ocean.

The Trail can be expected to generate significant economic benefit, through increased tourism, in a vast and largely rural region. I ask you to refer this legislation to the appropriate committee for consideration.

CONGRATULATING THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES CENTER (NESC) ON ITS SILVER ANNIVERSARY

HON. ALAN B. MOLLOHAN

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2004

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, a milestone anniversary is being celebrated this month at West Virginia University, in my Congressional District. Twenty-five years ago, the National Small Flows Clearinghouse first opened its doors. It was established by Professors Willem Van Eck and Raul Zaltzman, who wanted to help smaller communities find the best technologies to meet their water treatment needs.

Today, the Small Flows Clearinghouse is a highly successful program of the National Environmental Services Center (NESC). Since 1979, this organization has evolved into a national leader in combating pollution and assisting small communities on water issues. NESC is an expert resource not only on wastewater, but also drinking water, environmental training, infrastructure security and utility management. From its offices in Morgantown, NESC helps to protect public health and the environment in communities all across the country.

The organization will celebrate its 25th anniversary with an open house on July 26 at the university's Evansdale Campus. In marking the occasion, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my congratulations to President David Hardesty, Vice President for Research and Economic Development John Weete, and the NESC team: Executive Director John Mori, Director of Program Development Pam Schade and the entire staff, both past and present.

Their commitment to the health of our people and communities has achieved real results, and I wish them the very best as they begin NESC's next quarter-century of service.